

**SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 2016 YOUNG ARTISTS AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE**

Washington, DC (January 19, 2016) – Today, Sister Cities International (SCI) announced that the theme for the 2016 Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) will be “Peace through People.” For the first time, the organization will also include two new categories as part of their 29 year old initiative which strives to engage young people around the power of art in diplomacy. These new categories will include a digital Photography Challenge and a more robust Film Challenge, which will be open to young people around the world ages 13-22. For nearly three decades, YAAS has given youth from around the globe the opportunity to express their vision for a more unified, peaceful world through original artwork, literature, and film.

Using their creativity and passion for world peace, the 2016 YAAS encourages students to submit entries inspired by the theme “Peace through People.” “Youth from around the globe have been submitting their moving work to the Showcase for 29 years. Last year we incorporated film, and this year we’re eager to see what youth submit for the Photography Challenge for our monumental 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,” said Mary D. Kane, Sister Cities International’s President and CEO.

In honor of SCI’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016, YAAS’s Sister Cities Photography Challenge and Sister Cities Film Challenge are expanding to include a larger demographic of youth, ages 13-22, and encourages submissions from a wider network of students. More information including entry forms and guidelines are available on the SCI website at <http://sistercities.org/YAAS>.

The Grand Prize winners in the art, literature, photography, and film categories will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize. The winners’ and finalists’ work will also be on display at Sister Cities International’s [60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#) in Washington, DC July 13-16. Following the Conference, the artwork will go on a tour to several cities across the U.S. YAAS is made possible by the generous support of the Carvey Family.

For more information about YAAS, email Ted Carroll, membership manager for youth programs, at [tcarroll@sistercities.org](mailto:tcarroll@sistercities.org). To view past YAAS artwork submissions, visit [sistercitiesinternational.tumblr.com](http://sistercitiesinternational.tumblr.com).

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**About Sister Cities International**

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 545 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,100 communities in 145 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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